

IN THE CLAIMS:

Pub G1
E1
12. (Four times amended) [A] An isolated polynucleotide encoding a pan-growth factor which polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a naturally occurring artemin amino acid sequence or a fragment thereof that is biologically equivalent to artemin and has [of] at least 8 contiguous amino acids, wherein said nucleotide sequence [encoding a naturally occurring artemin amino acid sequence consists of] comprises not more than 10,000 nucleotides, and wherein said artemin amino acid sequence is at least [65%] 88% identical to SEQ ID NO:26 [or a fragment thereof], and wherein said amino acid sequence promotes survival of neurons, and [which] wherein said polynucleotide also comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a [fragment] polypeptide containing an active domain of at least one other growth factor from the TGF- β superfamily.

Pub G2
E2 H2
15. (Four times amended) An isolated [and purified] nucleic acid molecule [or fragment thereof consisting of] comprising no more than 10,000 nucleotides, wherein [the isolated and purified] said nucleic acid molecule [comprises a nucleotide sequence that] encodes a naturally occurring artemin amino acid sequence or a fragment thereof that is biologically equivalent to artemin, and [that] wherein said artemin amino acid sequence is at least [65%] 88% identical to SEQ ID NO:26 [or a fragment thereof], and wherein said artemin amino acid promotes survival of neurons.

Pub G4
E3
25. (Thrice amended) [A recombinant] An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising an artemin nucleotide sequence, wherein the artemin nucleotide sequence encodes a naturally occurring artemin amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of a pre-pro-artemin polypeptide, a pro-artemin polypeptide, a mature artemin polypeptide and a fragment of said pre-pro-artemin amino acid sequence that is biologically equivalent to artemin and has [having] at least 8 contiguous amino acids, and wherein the artemin amino acid sequence is at least [65%] 88% identical to SEQ ID NO:26 and wherein said amino acid sequence promotes survival of neurons.

E4
Pub G5
27. (Thrice amended) An isolated [and purified] nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide encoding:

- (a) a pre- region of artemin as set forth in SEQ ID NO:54 or SEQ ID NO:55;
- (b) a pro- region of artemin as set forth in SEQ ID NO:56 or SEQ ID NO:57;
- (c) a pre-pro- region of artemin as set forth in SEQ ID NO:58 or SEQ ID NO:59; or
- (d) a polypeptide that is at least [65%] 88% identical to (a), (b) or (c).